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Ethics Class (CSCI 77800)
Predictive Policing (Against)

Predictive Policing

1. "Using algorithms to analyze massive amounts of information in order to predict and help prevent potential future crimes"
2. Method to forecast criminal activity with algorithmic techniques
3. Analyze historical data to see where crimes are committed in order to deploy police forces, accordingly.
4. Identify who may commit a crime or be a victim of a crime based on police data, social media, the internet, and CCTV records.

Transparency Issues:

1. Municipal departments fought legal battles for years not to disclose the data sets analyzed and how the predictions are used like the LAPD.
2. NYPD said they do not use arrest data but unverified due to a lack of transparency.
3. NYPD did not keep audit logs or how the predictions were being used. No way to confirm whether the predictive model correlated with the actual number of crimes.

Constitutional Issues:

1. Threaten people's 4th Amendment Rights - "reasonable suspicion" for a police officer stops which protects people from "unreasonable search and seizures" by the police
2. Makes it easier for police to justify such search and seizure stops
3. Perpetuates existing racial bias in the criminal justice system
   a. "Dirty data" - data derived from or influenced by corrupt, biased, and unlawful practices"
   b. Discriminatory policing and manipulation of crime statistics relying on biased policing practices and attempting to meet quotas for arrests leading to over-policing and in neighborhoods where the data is concentrated
4. "Tech-washing" - racially biased policing methods are considered objective methods because computer algorithms are involved instead of human judgment.

4 Drawbacks of Predictive Policing:

1. Privacy concerns
2. Lack of accuracy
3. Discrimination
4. Accountability